

Medicaid Revitalization Committee

Public Comment
September 21, 2006

I want to commend the Committee for their efforts, and commend the staff of DMAS for their ability to pull the many different elements and ideas together in a surprisingly coherent and cohesive fashion.

The draft report seems to capture the elements required and the recommendations, as written, appear to “do no harm.” We will continue to monitor closely the further development of the recommendations and the implementation as follows:

- Enhanced benefit accounts – be cautious about the potential for misuse or exploitation of debit cards if assigned to persons who are seriously mentally ill or severely cognitively impaired;
- Web-based claims – make the exclusion “staff wage payments in consumer-directed models within long-term care services” instead of the wording used which could include agency functions which support the consumer-directed services.
- Buy-in opportunities – While it is stated in other places, a specific reference to the Family Opportunity Act in the recommendation would place an important emphasis on this option.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and to participate in this process.